

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
March 6, 2012**North Carolina Department of Insurance**
Notification of Application for Grant Funds/Awards, 2011-12**NC DOT Bike Safety Grant: Safety Education Trailer for Safe Kids NC - \$13,000.00 - Fund 1500**
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This is a reimbursement grant that will provide a ready-to-roll bike and pedestrian safety trailer to the network of Safe Kids coalitions and network of health and wellness advocates across NC to use as an educational safety tool. The local Safe Kids Coalitions which are a strong community group are represented by a large diversity of members such as health care officials, hospitals, health departments, fire service, EMS, school officials and law enforcement. This trailer will be provided with safety equipment, educational tools and supplies needed to conduct a bike or pedestrian safety event. The trailer, which will have bike/pedestrian safety graphics, will roll onto the scene and function as a safety billboard and contain everything needed to conduct a bike or pedestrian safety event. The trailer will be available to Safe Kid Coalitions and health and wellness advocates across NC and transported by the DOI regional Injury Prevention Specialist. One of the most important missions of the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation is bicycling and walking safety education programs and this educational bike safety trailer would help fulfill that mission.

The purpose of the bike/pedestrian safety trailer is to provide an educational trailer to the Safe Kids coalitions and health and wellness advocates in NC that do not have the resources to provide this safety education. Unfortunately bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except the automobile. Head injury is the leading cause of wheeled sports-related death and the most important determinant of permanent disability after a crash. Helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by as much as 88 percent.

NC DOT data shows that each year in NC more than 900 bicyclists are involved in police-reported crashes with motor vehicles. On average, around 25 are killed and an additional 62 are seriously injured. During 2004-2008 there were 124 fatal bike crashes and 293 disabling bike crashes. Children and young adults are the most frequent victims and they are most frequently injured on a street in a shared travel lane and on a sidewalk crosswalk or driveway crossing.

The bike safety trailer will integrate the “Rule of the Road” curriculum. The bike safety trailer will help support community programs that distribute helmets and other bike safety gear at low

or no cost to families in need; educate children and their caregivers about the importance of properly wearing a helmet that bears a CPSC label; using hand signals and understanding how to ride safely around traffic. The trailer activities will test the student's knowledge of basic bicycle rules and safe riding techniques.

In addition the trailer will contain educational tools to support pedestrian safety programs. We will use the NC Safe Routes to School program that enables and encourages children to walk and bicycle to school; makes walking and bicycling to school a safe means of transportation. North Carolina Pedestrian Crash Data indicates that each year in NC more than 2,000 pedestrians are involved in police-reported crashes with motor vehicles. Between 150 and 200 are killed, and an additional 200 to 300 are seriously injured. In 2007 there were 175 pedestrians killed and 223 disabled. Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable. Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5-14. These injuries are likely to be severe. Despite the risk of injury to pedestrians, walking is a fundamental component of physical fitness for children. It is essential that children have the ability to walk safely in neighborhoods and school areas. In order to promote safer walking environments we will provide pedestrian safety activities and education for drivers and pedestrians to encourage safety behaviors.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety has been a priority of Safe Kids NC for several years. Our goal is to eliminate bike and pedestrian related deaths and injuries to children in NC. By providing our community safety experts with the bike and pedestrian safety trailer we are providing the resources needed to put on a bike or pedestrian safety event especially in low-income areas. Along with providing the bike trailer we will provide Basics of Bicycle training to individuals using the trailer. Training will be based on the "Rules of the Road" curriculum and provided on the proper way to fit a bike helmet; how to teach bicycle safety and safe riding skills; and how to effectively use the trailer and equipment to educate bike safety to children and parents.